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MADDY LEAVES LASTING LEGACY

By Mike Marten
Editor News & Review

They all gathered at Frank Fat's for one huge tribute to the late Senator Ken Maddy: their friend, their colleague, and in the case of the California horse-racing industry, their savior.

Most of the leading political figures of the last three decades were there, including Jerry Brown, Pete Wilson, Willie Brown, and John Burton.

How many hours did those leaders spend with Maddy hammering out tough compromises in an atmosphere of respect, appreciation, and trust?



KEN MADDY

What thoughts must have been going through their minds as they shared one final moment together in remembrance of the man who helped them shape the course of California's future?

The family chose to hold the tribute at Frank Fat's because that was what Maddy requested while he was battling the lung cancer that finally took him away February 19 at the age of 65. He wanted nothing fancy – just a chance for everyone to gather at the popular Sacramento restaurant and enjoy some good food and drinks in celebration of his life.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In horse racing we talk about class. Sometimes you can just look at a horse and tell from its style, its manner, its gait, its aura, that the horse has class. You can't explain it. You can't sum it up in so many words. It's just something you know instinctively.

Senator Ken Maddy had class. It was something you sensed the first time you met him. You just knew it.

He also had intelligence, humor, integrity, compassion, and a deep sense of loyalty to the residents of California, particularly those in his district who elected him to State office. He was the shining example of representative government at its best, a leader of leaders, who gained the respect of all of his colleagues in the State Capitol regardless of their individual party affiliations or differing views.

He had a capacity to listen to people, to make you feel well received. Not many people I've been around have had as much magnetism as Senator Maddy. He drew people to him in friendship and in trust.

He also knew the horse-racing game. He knew many of the people, all of the horse-racing laws, and had a lot of historical information about why things are the way they are. Anyone who knew about horse racing realized how much he loved the sport after talking with him for five minutes.

He was the single best person to go to if you wanted to learn more about horse racing in California. As such, he proved invaluable to me when I assumed the position of executive director of the California Horse Racing Board in January of 1994. He was my mentor, and he became a good friend.

Most importantly, Senator Maddy was a good person. And for that reason alone, we will miss him.

Roy C. Wood, Jr.
Roy C. Wood, Jr.



IN THE GOLDEN STATE

Review and Update of CHRB Integrity of Racing Program

Ensuring the integrity of racing ranks high among the California Horse Racing Board's primary responsibilities. Mike Marten, the CHRB's public information officer, recently wrote an article for Winning Connection Magazine, the official publication of the California Thoroughbred Trainers. That article is republished here for readers of CHRB News & Review.

The California Horse Racing Board spent nearly \$5 million last year – roughly two-thirds its budget – on equine drug testing, enforcement efforts, and other costs associated with protecting the integrity of racing.

Meanwhile, despite perennial backstretch rumors of cheating by unscrupulous horsemen, the CHRB's confidential hotline for reporting rule violations rang just twice during the entire year – and those two calls had nothing to do with cheats.

Owners, trainers, veterinarians, and other workers in the horse-racing industry certainly must be aware of the CHRB's hotline, which was established in 1994. The number (800-805-7223) has been published repeatedly in newsletters and on overnights, and signs are posted in stable areas throughout the state.

And now they can phone a commissioner. The three members of the CHRB's Medication Committee invite anyone aware of a serious rule violation to call them, confidentially, at the following numbers: Joseph Fenley (858) 756-9170; Sheryl Granzella (510) 262-1640; and Marie Moretti (916) 448-4234.

Roy Wood, the executive director of the California Horse Racing Board, believes the majority of people in the horse-racing industry are honest and that racing is essentially a fair game. But he also recognizes the responsibility of the CHRB to stay alert for those who don't play by the rules. The Board's comprehensive drug-testing program is one line of defense.

The sensitivity, accuracy, and comprehensiveness of testing at the CHRB's two official equine drug-testing laboratories – Truesdail Laboratories in Irvine and the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Iowa State University – has been well established. After all, these are the same laboratories that de-

tected minute levels of clenbuterol and scopolamine in recent years. It would be unreasonable to believe that a lot slips by them.

Truesdail and Iowa State analyzed 35,000 urine and blood specimens for the CHRB last year, yet reported serious positives (Class 1, 2, or 3 drugs) for only 12 of those tests. That's about one serious positive in 3,000 samples. The numbers certainly don't suggest there's widespread cheating in California horse racing.

Still, the Board's enforcement team of investigators and associate stewards doesn't take anything for granted and is out in force every racing day at racetracks and official training facilities throughout California. At Santa Anita Park, for example, there are three two-person teams performing barn inspections and Lasix audits on a daily basis, and they ac-

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CALENDAR

MARCH

- 24 – CHRB monthly meeting in Arcadia.**
- 29 – Golden Gate thoroughbred meet opens.**

APRIL

- 6 – Cal Expo harness meet opens.**
- 14 – Los Alamitos quarter-horse meet opens.**
- 28 – Hollywood Park thoroughbred meet opens.**
- 28 – CHRB monthly meeting in Inglewood.**

THE EQUINE PRESCRIPTION

**FROM THE DESK OF THE CHRB
EQUINE MEDICAL DIRECTOR**



DR. RON JENSEN

The use of toe grabs on horseshoes and the role they play in contributing to racing and training injuries continues to be debated by the California racing industry.

Some segments of the industry feel that toe grabs are a significant factor in racing and training injuries while others feel that more information is needed before making a determination on restricting their use. Several industry groups have spent considerable time and effort trying to determine the correct course of action.

At a recent lengthy meeting of the CHRB Medication Committee, representatives of the California Thoroughbred Trainers, Thoroughbred Owners of California, California racing associations, the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, and the CHRB agreed on a plan of action to further determine the effects of toe grabs on racing injuries and performance.

There are three components to this plan:

- Researchers from UC Davis will conduct a new study at all thoroughbred tracks in the state.
- The plan also calls for the completion of the analysis of data collected by the same researchers during a previous research project involving a study of the effects of different types of shoes on racing and training injuries in actively competing horses. It is anticipated that this analysis will be completed in 60 to 90 days.
- In addition to the studies, an attempt will be made to collect information from foreign racing jurisdictions where they race on dirt tracks without toe grabs.

Examinations at Receiving Barn

In the new study, a researcher from UC Davis and the blacksmith at the receiving barn will examine the feet and shoes worn by every horse entered to race. They will record the type of shoes the horse is wearing, the presence or

absence of toe grabs, and, if present, the length of the grab. They also will observe and record information about the conformation of the foot, including the angle of the hoof, and will photograph the bottom of the foot. This information will be used to compare the shoeing practices and hoof conformation of horses that sustain injuries with horses

that do not sustain injuries. The study is designed to continue for one year and will be conducted during all types of weather conditions.

The new study also will utilize the racing records of these horses to provide information concerning the performance of horses that race with toe grabs and those that race without toe grabs, as well as the ability of those horses to stay in training and continue to race.

The information will be collected and recorded in a uniform manner and in a format that can be transmitted electronically to the JD Wheat Orthopedic Research Laboratory at UC Davis, where the data will be analyzed.

Data to Supplement First Study

When these studies are completed, the racing industry in California will have additional scientific information to use in conjunction with information already available from the postmortem study, which originally identified the association of toe grabs and catastrophic injuries, to make an informed decision concerning the use of toe grabs based on what is best for the horse.

“When these studies are completed, the racing industry in California will have additional scientific information...to make an informed decision concerning the use of toe grabs based on what is best for the horse.”

Ron Jensen



SB 27 Delivers on its Promise

By Dick Gonzalez
CHRB Staff

We now have had more than a full year to measure the effect of what was described at its passage as the great racing-relief act of 1999.

SB 27 promised to lower license fees by an average of 50%, the savings split between the racetracks and horsemen. SB 27 has lived up to its

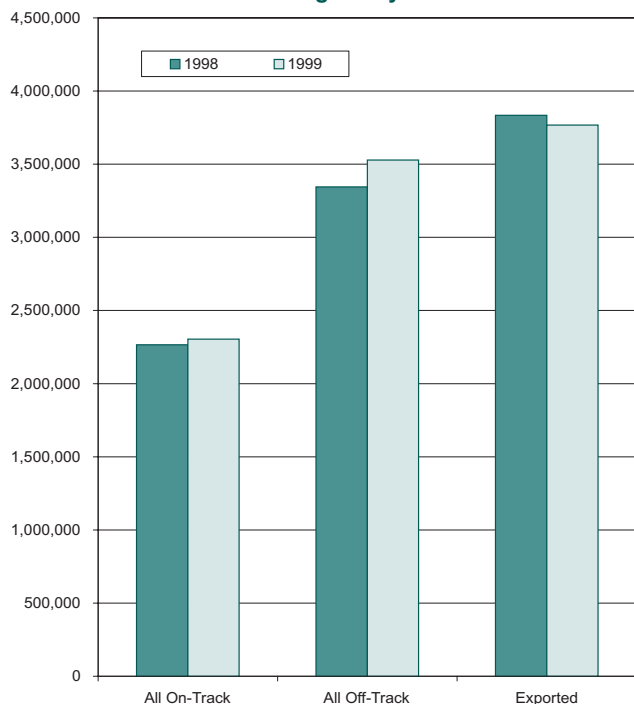
promise. Track commissions have increased by a daily average of 16 to 24%. Owners and breeders have enjoyed a daily average increase of 21 to 26% in purses and breeders' awards.

For years, California's racing fans asked for the opportunity to wager on races from other states, just as other states could wager on entire race cards from California. Included in SB 27 was a provision enabling California tracks to import full race cards

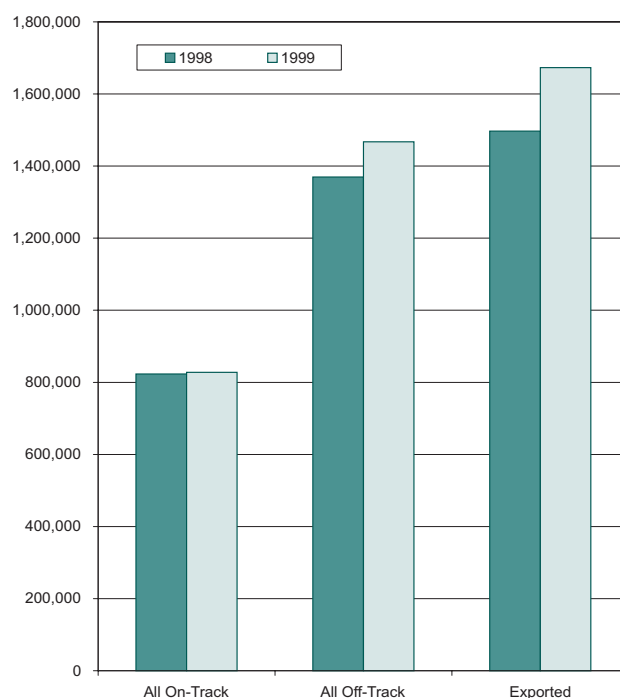
from other states. Fans now enjoy the opportunity to wager on as many as 23 imported live races each racing day from major U.S. tracks, in addition to the north-south exchange from California's own live racing programs.

It is evident by the results, SB 27 has proven itself to be a win-win-win for the California horse-racing industry: a win for the tracks, a win for the horsemen, and a win for racing fans.

SB 27 Impact: January 1–December 31
Southern Thoroughbreds
Average Daily Handle



SB 27 Impact: January 1–December 31
Northern Thoroughbreds
Average Daily Handle



Comings and Goings at the CHRB

Edie Bold, secretary to Roy Minami, assistant executive director of the CHRB, retired on January 3 after 15 years with the Board.

Michael Brown, a senior special investigator on the Southern California thoroughbred circuit, transferred February 1 to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Heidi Varela joined the accounting unit as an accountant trainee on January 18, taking the place of Lore Zawkiewicz, who was promoted the same day to the position of senior accounting officer.

Richard Gonzalez of the pari-mutuel audits unit was promoted March 2 from the position of staff services management auditor to that of associate governmental program analyst.

Luan Pham of the information systems unit was promoted January 17 to associate programmer analyst.



BE OUR GUEST...



The California Horse Racing Board believes the best way to regulate an industry is to be fully informed. The CHRB regularly solicits input from the public and the horse racing industry, and this guest editorial page is one more forum for that purpose.

Ken Maddy wrote this guest editorial in February of 1996. Although the issue addressed has since been resolved and is no longer timely, the editorial illustrates his extensive knowledge and deep commitment to the California horse-racing industry.

It seems endemic of the horse-racing industry to always complain that “something needs to be done,” yet no one ever seems to agree on what that “something” is.

There is a prevalent complaint that the California-bred Incentive Awards Program is insufficient, inadequate, and failing in its mission to produce and keep high-quality horses in this state. This complaint bewails the fact that “something needs to be done” to encourage both quality and quantity. The quantity factor is increasingly important, for it is predicted that California will have fewer Cal-bred 2-year-olds available in 1997 than we have now.

To hear all sides of the issue, the Senate Governmental Organization Committee recently held a hearing to try to identify that “something.” All the major players were there — the CTBA, TOC, racetracks, and a large turnout of interested persons. Everyone had different views on the problem and the solution. I came away disappointed over the lack of consensus, yet convinced that a strong statement should be made in a new legislative proposal, Senate Bill 1373, to the effect that California must highlight the importance of owning and breeding Cal-breds, and horse owners need to realize the advantages of the program.

SB 1373 makes several changes in the restricted-race area and the Cal-bred Incentive Program. The legislation requires Cal-bred restricted-race purses to be at least 20% greater than open races of the same caliber. The 20% increase in the purses comes from general purse distributions. The bill also mandates that associations dedicate at least 10% of their total stakes purses to Cal-bred stakes. Again, this comes from general purse distributions.

The legislation also modifies the law that currently diverts a portion of purse money to the incentive program for owner, breeder, and stallion awards by providing a premium “bonus” to Cal-breds winning in open company, exclusive of stakes races. The premiums, payable to owners of Cal-breds who win in open company, are 20% of the purse if the Cal-bred is sired by a California stallion and 10% of the purse if sired elsewhere. In order for a runner to

qualify for the 20% premium, his or her sire must be registered — for a fee — with the CTBA. Owners awards shall not be paid on Cal-bred restricted races as they are now, and we are raising the threshold of qualifying races to those having a purse of not less than \$15,000, which should inspire horsemen to improve their stock. Breeders awards are not affected by the qualifying levels.

The bill answers the criticisms of the present program, vis-à-vis, backyard stallions and awarding poor-quality horses. The stallion registration program will be designed to give everyone a chance but, at the same time, to eliminate some whose owners feel their stallion is not worth registering.

More recently I met with racing secretaries to discuss the potential impact of these changes on the general purse structure at each track. It was their position that diverting money from general purses to Cal-breds would weaken each track’s program. Accordingly, before the next committee hearing, we will have actual data based on the 1995 experience to evaluate these arguments.

SB 1373 is meant to strengthen the incentive program. If we increase the number of stakes races for Cal-breds and raise the purse level of Cal-bred races in comparison to comparable open races, the advantages of owning and breeding Cal-breds will be clear to everyone. This message will be reinforced by offering substantial bonuses to Cal-breds winning in open company, particularly if they are by California registered stallions. This should be noted in the official race programs and in results charts.

SB 1373 will be heard in the Senate and the Assembly over the next few months before it reaches the Governor’s desk. I have solicited comments from the entire industry, and I anticipate very interesting debate for this legislation as we continue our efforts to identify the “something” that needs to be done. I fervently hope we can improve the Cal-bred Program, leading to a higher quality and greater quantity of Cal-breds. Our success in this endeavor is critical to the survival of the industry.

Ken Maddy at the Races...



*...at Santa Anita Park with
his fiancée, Marie Moretti.*

*...at Churchill Downs with
(from left) Bob Benoit,
Mel Stute, Bahman Abtahi,
and Tom Capehart.*



...at Bay Meadows when Work the Crowd captured the Old English Rancho Handicap.



...at Del Mar in the stable area one morning with Joe Harper.

...at Golden Gate Fields with his favorite horse, Work the Crowd.



...at Hollywood Park in the 1950s when he worked as a groom.

Hollywood Park, Santa Anita, and Churchill Downs photographs provided by Benoit Photo.

It wasn't hard to spot the corner booth that was popularly known as Maddy's second office. The booth was covered with flowers, with Maddy's picture on the table. That evening, the restaurant owners dedicated the booth in his honor.

Even though the timing of the event conflicted with the Santa Anita Handicap, horse racing was well represented by the likes of John Van de Kamp, John Harris, Ralph Scurfield, Don Valpredo, Cliff Goodrich, Jack Liebau, Roy Wood, Sherwood Chillingworth, Craig Fravel, and of course Maddy's fiancée, Marie Moretti.

They all skipped the Big 'Cap in order to attend the tribute. Maddy would have felt honored because to him that would have been the ultimate sacrifice. He rarely missed a Big 'Cap, or a Gold Cup, or a Pacific Classic, or a...

"Cal-breds finished one-two in the Big 'Cap," noted Moretti, who was appointed to the California Horse Racing Board last year by Governor Gray Davis. "Ken would have been thrilled by the finish – absolutely thrilled. His pride in horse racing was the Cal-bred awards program and how he fought for its establishment and its growth. His passion was breeding and racing Cal-breds.

"He found ways to meld responsible public policy and the needs of the horse-racing industry."

Marie Moretti

"The California horse-racing industry was very special to him. In fact, he told me that his most important career achievement was the creation of the equine laboratory at UC Davis (officially known as the Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory for equine drug testing and research to improve the health and performance of all types of horses).

"The Davis lab is a perfect example of the way Ken successfully merged his love for horse racing with his love for the State," continued Moretti. "The lab was created for the equine industry, but it also met a public need and was built at a public institution. He found ways to meld responsible public policy and the needs of the horse-racing industry."

This successful marriage of horse racing and politics was a common theme in conversations with some of the people who knew Maddy best.

"He always had a love for racing," said Del Mar President Joe Harper. "His rise was in politics, and when he got to be a

"We tend to focus on the big things that Ken accomplished for horse racing like SB 14 and SB 27, but we'll never know all of the little things that he did in Sacramento to protect us."

Joe Harper

considerable force in State government, it made for a natural marriage. He understood the game better than anyone else elected to public office in California, perhaps in the country.

"He was so smart. He had a gift of being able to build a consensus. And he really knew how to tell you when the deal was done. In negotiations, sometimes the hardest part is to know when to cut the deal. With Ken, he would say this is the deal you are going to get, even if it isn't the deal you want. And 99% of the time, it usually was a pretty good deal.

"We tend to focus on the big things that Ken accomplished for horse racing like SB 14 and SB 27, but we'll never know all of the little things that he did in Sacramento to protect us," concluded Harper.

Maddy's love of horse racing began long before his involvement in politics. His father owned a racehorse in the 1940s. While attending Inglewood High School in the 1950s, Maddy worked as a groom during the Hollywood Park meet for brothers Warren and Mel Stute, and during the summer he worked at Del Mar, where he slept in tack rooms.

Maddy's career took him first to Fresno State, then the U.S. Air Force, then UCLA, where he earned his law degree, followed by 10 years of private practice before taking public office in 1970 as the State assemblyman representing Fresno. He left the Assembly in 1978 to run for governor, but lost in the primary. In a June 1979 special election, he won a California Senate seat, then won re-election four times until term limits forced him out of office in 1998. He served as the Republicans' Senate minority leader from 1987 to 1995.

SUPPORTED MANY IMPORTANT ISSUES

Maddy was a major force in a wide range of legislation, including matters relating to health care, education, property-tax-administration reform, farm labor, water, land use, and many other agricultural issues. He also represented his Republican colleagues in the all-important State budget negotiations.

As for horse racing, he authored most of the important racing bills, including the two most significant pieces of Cali-

fornia racing-related legislation in recent decades: SB 14, which in 1987 established the framework for the California intertrack wagering system that we know today, and SB 27, which beginning in 1999 provided significant license-fee relief for the racing industry and authorized full-card simulcasting of out-of-state racing programs.

“There wasn’t much of importance going through the California Legislature that he didn’t have his hands on in some manner,” said former CHRB Chairman Ralph Scurfield, “but if Ken has a specific legacy, it would have to be water and horse racing.”

Jack Liebau, president of Bay Meadows, was another close friend of Maddy’s who worked closely with the senator on much of the major racing-related legislation.

“We in the racing industry tend to think of Ken Maddy in terms of racing, but to view him as a guy who was only, or even primarily, involved in racing was simply not the way it was,” explained Liebau. “He moved and supported legislation in many other areas. And when he was Senate Republican leader, he worked out the controversies in the budgets.

“Because of his excellent work in these other areas, he had great credibility with the other legislators. When he was able to convince his colleagues to pass racing legislation, it wasn’t because he knew the industry. It was based on their overall respect for him.

“He loved visiting with his friends in the track kitchen more than being at the nicest table in the turf club. He truly appreciated the many characters and personalities of the sport and loved to reminisce about all the great times he had enjoyed through racing.”

John Harris

“Within the racing industry, Ken had his own mind,” continued Liebau. “He never favored anybody. When it came down to it, he always did what he thought was right, no matter who it benefited the most. He always was fair, and that’s probably the biggest reason everyone respected him and liked him.”

Through the years, Maddy went to the races every chance he had, and eventually he bred, owned, and raced thoroughbreds, including the graded stakeswinner Work the Crowd.

He always kept in close contact with his many friends in the industry, especially two major farm owners and thoroughbred breeders in the San Joaquin Valley – John Harris and Don Valpredo – who shared his passion for horse racing. In fact, most of the horses Maddy raced were owned in partnership with Harris.



“It was a privilege for me to be a close friend of Ken’s for 25 years,” said Valpredo. “In fact, it was through his efforts that I was appointed to the California Horse Racing Board (1991-1998). Ken and I agreed with certain agendas, and we tried to accomplish some things together.

“Ken always had the same attitude from the day I met him until the day he left – always upbeat, gracious, dignified. He always had a smile, always rooted for a horse, always knew he could breed a better horse, and his devotion to the industry can never be replaced.

“Nobody else could have accomplished what he did. It came easy for Ken because he had such a winning personality. You just liked to be with Ken Maddy.”

Harris, perhaps Maddy’s closest friend, initially found it difficult to express his thoughts, but when asked to write an editorial on Maddy for The Blood-Horse magazine, he forced himself to sit down and put his thoughts into words, which speak eloquently of his deep respect and affection for the man.

“I get choked up whenever I think about Ken passing, but we can keep his memory alive,” wrote Harris. “He cared greatly for good racing, special horses, good sportsmanship, high ethical standards, and all of us having fun in this wonderful sport.

“He loved visiting with his friends in the track kitchen more than being at the nicest table in the turf club. He truly appreciated the many characters and personalities of the sport and loved to reminisce about all the great times he had enjoyed through racing.

“His spirit will always be alive.”





CENTER OF ATTENTION — Laffit Pincay Jr., who surpassed Bill Shoemaker in January as the leading jockey of all time, was presented with a resolution at the January CHRB meeting in recognition of his achievements as an athlete and his exemplary behavior in private life. Among those honoring him (from left) were CHRB Commissioners Marie Moretti, Robert Tourtelot, Joseph Fenley, Sheryl Granzella, and then-Chairman George Nicholaw.

INTEGRITY

(Continued from page 2)

company veterinarians (ride along) on their rounds at least twice a week. Similar teams operate at the northern tracks and at Los Alamitos. And the teams travel to Fairplex Park and other training facilities whenever possible.

The unannounced barn inspections, which are done with as little disruption as possible to individual barn operations, focus on medication and security procedures. These inspections are in addition to the monitoring of individual horses for compliance with CHRB medication rules, which only permit the administration of bleeder medication within 24 hours of a race.

Security Forces Work as Team

CHRB investigators and associate stewards frequently coordinate their activities with other security personnel at racetracks, which makes for a more productive use of their time. For example, investigators once spent an inordinate amount of time verifying that assistant trainers and others are wearing safety helmets while out on the track on a pony with a racehorse. Much of that responsibility has now been turned over to outriders and track security, allowing CHRB personnel to concentrate more on barn inspections and other matters. The Board also created the position of licensing manager to free investigators from licensing functions and let them spend more time in the barn area.

Sometimes CHRB and track security personnel work in

tandem, such as a recent security inspection of San Luis Rey Downs by CHRB investigators and Santa Anita security people. (Santa Anita and SLRD now have the same ownership.) Deputies with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department are part of the continuing enforcement efforts at SLRD.

The Board also works closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation on matters of mutual interest.

The three stewards at each racetrack are in the front line when it comes to protecting the integrity of racing, so it's particularly important for them to hone their skills. They participate in a continuing education program, conducted by the CHRB, designed to give them the tools they require to make good judgment calls, to conduct due-process hearings with consistency and fairness, and to ensure the safety of all racing participants.

The duties of the associate steward, who once was considered to be a "fourth" steward, working with and reporting directly to the others, have evolved in recent years to concentrate more on medication and track safety issues, under the more direct control of Wood. The associate steward now handles all medication complaints involving Class 1, 2, or 3 drugs, illegal injections, and the receiving barn. This makes the associate steward a key player in the Board's Integrity of Racing Program.

(Continued on next page)

Unique Equine Medical Director Post

Another essential role is filled by the equine medical director (EMD), which is a unique position in North American horse racing. Dr. Ronald Jensen is the EMD. He advises the Board on drug testing, medication, and veterinary matters.

The EMD position evolved from the CHRB's close and longstanding relationship with the University of California at Davis, which provides the EMD from its own staff. The Board also benefits from the research capabilities and other resources of the university. This relationship led to the development of a state-of-the-art equine drug-testing laboratory, which soon will be analyzing a portion of the equine samples for the CHRB, and to the internationally acclaimed equine Postmortem Program, which helps identify the causes of fatal injuries and strives to develop prevention strategies to protect racehorses.

Dr. Jensen works closely with the two official labs in determining methods to be used in the drug-detection process.

"The concept of using two laboratories is unique to racing," he explained. "It allows us to utilize two different methods for screening for drugs. Iowa State uses immunoassay and instrumental screening while Truesdail utilizes traditional thin-layer chromatography and immunoassay screening. This gives us the detection capability for a broader range of drugs and greater sensitivity."

Stewards Consider Drug Classifications

The EMD works closely with Wood and the Board in reviewing and updating the CHRB's drug classifications, which classify drugs based largely on their potential to affect the performance of a horse. Class 1 drugs have the greatest potential for affecting the outcome of a race while Class 7 drugs have the least. The classification system gives the stewards information they need to determine which are the more serious rule violations.

The EMD also oversees the research necessary for the

Board to make informed decisions for the establishment of decision levels for certain therapeutic medications that are critical for the health of horses and do not affect the outcome of races when present at the low decision levels.

"As our racing chemists have become more proficient at detecting the really bad stuff, they've also gotten better at detecting insignificant residual levels of legitimate therapeutic medications," explained Jensen. "The Board recognizes this and has adopted rules to deal with the problem."

Executive Director Oversees Program

All elements of the CHRB's Integrity of Racing Program are monitored by the executive director. In fact, it was Wood who made this program a top priority when he came to the Board in 1994 from the Texas Racing Commission, where he was director of racing. Previously he was the presiding steward for the Louisiana State Racing Commission.

Wood spends hours each week, sometimes each day, communicating with stewards, investigators, veterinarians, and others involved in protecting the integrity of racing. Given his background in other states and his familiarity with the California program, nobody has a better perspective of this issue than Wood.

"We're on the cutting edge in every respect in California. We have a lot to be proud of and a lot to protect. And we're constantly looking for innovative ways to make things better," explained Wood. "In addition to our responsibility to protect the citizens of California, we at the California Horse Racing Board have the additional responsibility of protecting our licensees. We have programs in place to accomplish just that.

"I would like to encourage every racing participant to help us protect this great sport. If there's a rule violation, let us know about it. If someone is doing something wrong, call our 800 number. The calls are confidential, and action will be taken. I believe the majority of people who participate in racing in California are of the highest integrity. I'm counting on them to help us."



*Articles and photographs appropriate for CHRB News & Review may be submitted to Mike Marten of the CHRB staff:
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*Please help us enforce California's racing rules.
Call (800) 805-7223 to
report any violations.*

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